



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**Community Board No. 2**

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER, 121 DEKALB AVENUE  
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Members present:** Barbara Zahler- Gringer, Chairperson; Andrew Lastowecky, Co-chairperson; Carolyn Hubbard-Kamunanwire, Dwight Smith, Julian Macrone, Jennifer Melby, Suzanne Quint.

**Staff:** Carol-Ann Church

**Guests:** Enid Braun, Omena El, Lucy Koteen, Sany Reiburn, Azza El, Schellie Hagan, Lloyd Rodriguez, Jason Salmon (Office of State Senator Velmanette Montgomery), Marisa Berry, Tannise Palmer, Davey Ivey, BC Martin Maher (NYC Parks and Recreation), Sam Cohen, Jasmin Cheng, Doug Beube; Nate Harris, Andrew Moore, Quesnell Rothschild & Partners; Rachelle Vagy, Lee Levine (Love our Pool); Belinda Cape, Regina Myer, Andrew Kalish, Isaac Esterman (Downtown Brooklyn Partnership), Manushka Magliore (Afro-Punk), Segun Shabaka (IAAF).

Ms. Zahler-Gringer called the meeting to order at 6:15pm with introductions.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Macrone seconded and unanimously approved.

**Brooklyn Academy of Music Triangle Park Design:** presentation by Regina Meyer, President Downtown Brooklyn Partnership (DBP), Andrew Moore, Partner, Quennell Rothschild

- NYC Parks will maintain this triangle but it is owned by HPD (Housing & Preservation Dev't). NYCEDC also involved as is Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER). Yu & Associates environmental engineering firm has been retained to test the site and create an environmentally protective work-plan. Environmental plan has been approved by OER as well as the NYC Parks Department.
- Downtown Brooklyn Partnership / Quennell Rothschild last presented at CB2 in 2015
- Changes since then include: additional entrances in / out of park; makeshift performance space/steps; 3'6" fence around exterior to keep people off of the plants; small raised deck which both provides passageway and protects tree roots
- Estimated Timeline: PDC review in June 2017, then going to bid, into construction in Fall 2017, estimated completion Spring 2018.
- *Environmental concerns:*
  - Original environmental report done by Langan engineering was completed in 2012, identified toxins in the soil, and recommended full site excavation.

- Toxins (mercury, lead) believed to be from building materials left at the site after the buildings there were demolished.
- DBP along with Quennell Rothschild commissioned Yu & Associates to do an additional report (testing more areas of the triangle park). They recommended an alternative mitigation that made it unnecessary to excavate the entire site as that would result in the loss of trees. The DBP/Quennell design proposal incorporates, some excavation, fencing and mulching to mitigate environmental concerns.
- Report from Yu & Associates will be posted online, as will the construction / work-plan once finalized (should be in the next few months). There will be ongoing environmental monitoring during construction.
- Mr. Macrone asked about potential flooding and the implications. Mr. Quennell answered that this is not a flood plain and run-off will be absorbed on-site.
- Community Member Ms. Sandy Reiburn raised the report she commissioned from independent lab CHEJ raising several environmental concerns and asked how will we be able to see a transparent process of testing during the remediation? DBP indicated that the test results will be placed on their website.
- The environmental plan by Yu & Associates has been approved by the Mayor's OER as well as the NYC Parks Dept. Per Commissioner Maher, who was present at the meeting, the NYC Parks Department engineers will not accept this (or any) park until it is fully remediated.

*Other questions:*

- A community member questioned the performance space / steps area with a concern re: noise. Mr. Maher stated that the Parks Department will be issues permits for use of the space and the Police Department issues sound permits. He noted that no sound permits are issued for after 10pm.
- Mr. Lastowecky requested that a closer look be taken at the related sidewalk plan park benches be placed near the bus stop.

Mr. Lastowecky moves to write a letter of support for DBP's design of BAM Triangle Park. Mr Smith seconds; 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion approved.

- **FY 2019 Parks and Recreation District Update:** presented by Martin Maher, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner NYC Parks and Recreation. The below include answers to questions submitted in advance from CB2 Parks Committee members.
- *Greene Playground and Edmonds Playground:* both need upgrade in next 10 years (basketball courts, etc.). Not currently funded.
- *Cuyler Gore Park:* not funded. Repairs are being done in-house work.
- *16 Sycamores Playground:* used to be a strong friends group there. Asked Tannise to get gardener's to do a nice plan.
- *Brooklyn Strand:* per Marty, a "conceptual project" (not funded) which has been turned over to the NYCEDC.
- *Bridge Park:* scoping sessions happening in June. Date TBD.

*Seasonal worker upgrades for summer 2017:* Parks Department is, for the first time, getting back-fills for workers who get stepped up responsibility over summer. Also, the department has created a *HotSpot* crew to maintain the heavily used areas such as BBQs and ball fields.

*Comfort stations:* all will have extended hours to 7pm during the summer.

**Commodore Barry Comprehensive Plan:** presentation by Martin Maher, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner NYC Parks and Recreation



- Oldest park in Brooklyn
- Last community listening session was approximately 10 years ago
- Ms Quint asked about the Anchor Parks grants program. Commissioner Maher stated that program was not funded beyond the initial year and that of the 877 parks in Brooklyn this is not, in his opinion, a "Top 5" park in need (citing renovation completed to open area 4 years ago). It is, however, maybe a Top 10 park in need.
- Mr. Lastowecky asked if the park can be done in phases; For example playground or basketball courts or multipurpose area and courts. Commissioner Maher guided the conversation towards securing funding from elected officials first. Parks will not produce any design plans until funding is in place, nor will it do any community scoping session until funding is in place (the reason being they don't want to get the community excited about something which has not been funded.)
- Ms Quint raised the idea of improving the basketball courts here as a potential solution to help relieve the overcrowding at Brooklyn Bridge Park's courts.
- Questions from the community were raised about synthetic turf.

Tannise Palmer to schedule a Tour of the district 2 parks with Commissioner Maher. Per Commissioner Maher, this tour will happen by December.

### **Community Forum:**

#### *Fort Greene Park / Parks without Borders Initiative:*

Fort Greene Park design will be presented either next month or September. No designs have been done yet. The work that has been shared in community meetings are concepts (not designs). Mr. Maher assured that Parks department teams are taking all of the information from the community meetings into consideration (playground not impacted at all, BBQ area will be relocated during construction) and asks the community to "Wait until you see the design."

Commissioner Maher denied the request for an additional (fifth) meeting with the community with the goal of having more NYCHA residents attend. It was noted that the last meeting was held in Ingersoll and that Mr. Sosa, Ingersoll Housing leader was informed of the meeting in advance. Per Commissioner Maher, there has been more outreach and input on this initiative than any other in 32 years of service on this project.

#### *Communications:*

During a discussion on communication and outreach, Senator Velmanette Montgomery's office offered to brainstorm ideas and provide assistance to CB2. Community members cited the recent CB2 Land Use meeting regarding the rezoning of 32 Lexington Avenue as a positive public forum where they felt all input was fully and respectfully heard.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Lastowecky moved to accept the minutes and Ms. Hubbard Kamunanwire seconded. Ms Zahler-Gringer made some corrections to content as well as grammar. Vote 5-0-2, all abstentions were absent from the prior meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Lastowecky moved to adjourn, Ms. Hubbard Kamunanwire seconded, motion unanimously accepted. Ms Zahler-Gringer adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm.